[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS *RE*

(1) PREVALENCE OF CHOLERA AND SMALLPOX IN CHIRAKKAL TALUK, NORTH MALABAR.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar has given notice of an adjournment motion which reads as follows :—

'That this House be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government to tackle the problem of public health which has resulted in a serious threat to the lives of the population of Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, due to spread of cholera and smallpox in an epidemic form.'

" I think this matter has been brought before the House a number of times."

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" This is the first time that the Chirakkal taluk, as a whole, has been affected by cholera. Hence, this is the first time that I have the necessity to bring an adjournment motion to discuss this particular matter. This is the most fitting subject-matter for an adjournment motion inasmuch as it affects the lives of so many people in the whole of the taluk. Reports have appeared in the local dailies of Malabar, copies of which I have with me and I have also received letters to the effect that deaths are taking place due to attack of cholera in various places in Chirakkal taluk. There were some stray reports in the press even previously and representations were made to the Health Department by the people of Andur, Thaliyil and other places that there was smallpox prevailing in those places and that medical aid might be given. But no officer of the Health Department went to those places, nor was any medical aid given. No preventive measures were taken to check further spread of the disease. Now, the situation has become so serious that even the Collector of Malabar had to declare the whole of the taluk except the Cannanore Municipality as a cholera-affected area. We know that the Health Department never admit the fact that there is star-
12-10 p.m. vation of people or that there is any epidemic. The very fact that even the Collector of Malabar had to declare the whole of the Chirakkal taluk a cholera-affected area shows how virulent the epidemic is in that place. But mere recognition of the fact that there is prevalence of cholera will not in any way help the public. The whole of the tauk is on the verge of colapse. I am not exaggerating when I say this. One thousand three hundred workers of Pappinisseri have no job and thousands of textile workers of the Chirakkal taluk were thrown out of employment. As a result of this, a number of workers have to starve. Due to the criminal negligence of the Government in not acceding to our request to open gruel centres, thousands of workers have to starve. Without taking cognizance of the fact that thousands of people are starving, the Government have not come forward to give the necessary medical aid. The Government have failed to take adequate preventive measures. They

ought to have rushed relief to the thousands of suffering people. This they have not done. Therefore I maintain that Government has got full responsibility in creating the present undesirable and calamitous situation there. So I request that the motion may be allowed."

* THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, when I came to know about this adjournment motion—adjournment motions have become usual with this hon. Member—I got information from the Director of Public Health. He says that Malabar district has been free from cholera from February 1954 to the third week of July 1954. There were two suspected cases after that and necessary measures have been taken to prevent the spread of infection. One thousand one hundred and sixty-two inoculations have been done. If the area has been declared as cholera-infected area, I think, it must have been done by way of abundant caution. That itself clearly shows how prompt the Government have been in this matter. I don't think there is any difficulty there which needs to be discussed under an adjournment motion. Everything is quiet in Malabar and it seems that there is some amount of disturbance only in the mind of the gentleman sitting opposite."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, we are discussing a matter of fact. The hon. Member has made it clear that the Collector of Malabar has declared a particular taluk as cholera-infected area. Even according to the information given by the Hon. Minister just now, there was no cholera there only up to the third week of July. But I must point out that we are not in the third week of July now. We are in the second week of August. Therefore, the answer given by the Hon. Minister cannot be accepted. This is a very serious matter. The Hon. Minister is not in a position to say what measures the Government have taken. Obviously, the Director of Public Health, to whom the adjournment motion would have been referred, is also not in a position to say what exactly the measures were that the Government have taken. The fact is that they have not taken any steps to help the poor people in that place. This only shows the negligence of the Government and the wonderful way in which the Government machinery moves. The Government should tackle this matter very quickly especially because the lives of thousands of people are involved in this matter. That is why this subject has to be considered immediately. Unfortunately, the position in the country seems to be that we have become immune to suffering. So many people are suffering under various circumstances. Their suffering is only taken for granted and no relief is given to them. Even in cases where the Government can give some effective help, it is not given. It is precisely for the purpose of drawing the attention of the House and the Government to a serious and urgent matter, this adjournment motion has been brought forward. It is quite in order and it may be allowed, Sir."

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, the Hon. the Health Minister was stating just now that there is some disturbance only in my mind and everything is quite all right in Malabar. May I most respectfully submit that it is due to the negligence,

I should say criminal negligence, on the part of the Health Department which is under the Hon. Minister, that the poor people of our place are attacked by cholera? The Hon. Minister in his answer said that Malabar was free from cholera up to the third week of July 1954. As the Hon. Leader of the Opposition correctly said, we are now in the second week of August. Even yesterday, I received four letters reporting three deaths in Andur village in Taliparamba and Karivellore in Payyanur firkas due to smallpox and cholera. This week two more deaths have taken place. In a daily paper of Malabar, editorial has been written on this matter. The Collector has notified the whole of that taluk—except the Cannanore Municipality—which has 76 villages as a cholera-infected area. This is not a small matter. The mere declaration of the area as a cholera-infected area will not suffice. We want that effective, suitable medical aid and other assistance must be immediately given. Suitable preventive measures must also be taken to prevent further attacks of cholera. We have repeatedly made these requests on a number of previous occasions. The Government have ignored our suggestions to open gruel centres and to afford medical aid, and as a result of this, the present situation has arisen."

* THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, beyond stating that the Collector of Malabar had notified that area as a cholera-infected area, no facts and figures have been given by the hon. Member. As far as we know, only two deaths took place which were suspected to be due to cholera. Prompt measures have been taken. Three Health Inspectors, one Overseer, one Sanitary Inspector and also Mazdoors are all there doing preventive work. As I have already stated 1,162 inoculations have been done. So, I don't think anything extraordinary has taken place in Malabar. The hon. Member is fond of always using superlatives. I don't think there in any case in favour of this adjournment motion "

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, it is obvious that the Hon. Minister has no information on this subject. We are living in an age in which we have telephonic communication. Before taking a decision on this matter, I request the Hon. Minister to phone up the Collector of Malabar and get the necessary information so that he may post himself with up-to-date information on the subject. After that, we can take up this matter for further consideration if necessary."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have now heard both sides. I do not think that this subject comes under rule 41 of the Madras Assembly Rules. So, I rule the motion out of order."